

“In the beginning God created . . .”

(Genesis 1:1)

From the void, from the place without form, out of the inky darkness, God moved, and through a process of progression the earth was made. Day one brought light out of darkness, next came the separation of earth from heaven, on the third day water and dry land appeared along with grasses, herbs, and fruit trees. Day four brought forth lights for signs, seasons, days, and years—we see the sun, moon, and stars, and we remember. On day five the waters brought forth abundantly—great whales and fish and living creatures that moved—but this was not all; He also imagined into reality bright colored birds to fly above the earth. Day six brought forth the living creatures on the land, including every thing that creepeth (see Genesis 1:1-25). The Creation was a process of progression. Each day’s new gift introduced because of the preparation of the day before—one building upon the other, line upon line, precept upon precept. In Genesis we discover a godly pattern for growth and becoming and progression.

Within the beautiful imagery of the Creation, in the midst of every step, there is an oft-repeated phrase. We see it for the first time after day one: “And God saw the light, that it was good” (Genesis 1:4). It’s there again on day three, after the waters and land were separated: “God saw that it was good” (v. 10). Four more times within the process, scripture records a similar phrase. “And God saw that it was good” (vv. 12, 18, 21, 25).

It is my nature to wait until the project is completed, until the work is finished, to evaluate whether or not my work is good. It is always in the end that I step back to evaluate the finished work and determine its worth.

Not God.

He saw the goodness in every step of the progression. He spoke it out loud. On day one, and twice on day three, and again there on day four. From the story of the Creation, we learn that our Father is just as interested in day-to-day progress as He is in the finished product. I think sometimes we forget that is true. We wonder if we are enough, if we are failing, if we are falling behind. We become discouraged. We doubt. We consider giving up. We must remember that God never expected the results of day six on day two. On day two, He was thrilled with the results of day two. He declared it good.

Why do we put the pressure on ourselves to become complete today instead of embracing the idea of progression? A little at a time. Every day better. Grace for grace. What if exaltation is all about progression?

Our God knows about line upon line. He sees where you have come from. He knows what you had to do to simply get through this day. If He were to whisper down from heaven tonight as you drift off to sleep, do you know what I think He would tell you?

You are already good.